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1959-03-05, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

Keywords

1959-03-05

Identifier

2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1950-03-05

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5 March 59

6⁰pm

Dear Mom and Saddy,

I got the package from Miller's today and everything was fine and it was wonderful to have bath powder and some soap and deodorant again. I was just running out of these this day - good timing.

I got your letter, Mom, about getting the radio. I'm pleased it got there in one piece. Won't you all buy us anything like that because we can get most all electrical stuff and the like for a big savings. I hope to buy some more of my silver while I'm here, it's nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ price if ordered through AFEX - crazy. World isn't it?

Ernie was allowed to come to quarters yesterday but not go to work until about next Monday so I'm on 7-3 until Monday when I go on 3-11 for 4 evenings before I get a day off. I'm so pooped when I get off I can't wiggle. I admitted 8 new patients today, gave a complete bed bath & started 6 I.V.'s, made complete Ward Rounds and had about 25 stat orders and did the usual charting & medications.

2 on 38 patients, plus discharging 4 and sending 2 to surgery and preparing 2 for surgery tomorrow - plus caring for 6-8 women on bed rest - I haven't been to lunch in so long I wouldn't know how to act. There was only me and 2 carpenters and that a lot of bed making and treatments for 3 people to do.

Lon is going to feed me again tonight. I wish he wouldn't come over every night because I feel bad about his spending all his money on me. Of course we eat for about $\frac{1}{3}$ what the food would cost us in the states. Naturally it's not as good but we usually eat grilled steak. I never want to see steak or french fried potatoes or french dressing again when I get home. They practically never serve potatoes any other way. I haven't had creamed potatoes but once since I left home and then we cooked it ourselves!

The big nice thing here is having your laundry done by someone for 3 pounds a month (99⁰⁰) and that's very cheap when you remember how much stuff I own and wear. My landress is unable to speak English so we just smile and nod. Her name is Adelaide.

I enjoyed all the pictures and clippings and I knew the Vandy doctors who are working &

3
The parin. sounds fine. I'm still
proud to be from there - it even
shows over here in Sandy N. Africa.
The patients can tell the difference
even if the Chief nurse can't.

One of the flight nurses is
here from Rhein Main, Germany
and she knew Bettie Edmonds. She
says the Rhein Main Squadron is
a real plush assignment. To think
I gave it up for here! I should
have my head examined. The
kids are all cooking dinner
down the hall for her. Polly
and Emilee are planning to
take leave in May to go to
Europe. They are busy pouring
over travel folders. I needn't
bother to look because I still
owe Uncle Sam time before I
can start thinking of going out the
gate of this base.

I'm glad you finally took
the night off, Mom. I want you
to do so regularly now. That's the
only way you'll ever do it is
to ask for one each week. They
can get relief for you -

Gaddy, if you don't get to feeling
better I wish you'd go see Mom's
Doctor Dan, too. He is really a
fine doctor and I think you'd
like him.

I'm waiting eagerly for the bread,
Mom. Thanks for all the trouble.
I'll mail you a M.O. for my bills in
the next letter. My money is here
now, but it is not usable in the U.S. Love, Bettie

5 Mar 59

Send this back as
I'm keeping all 7 Bette's
letters - don't keep all yours
as I've sent most of them to
her as she has never
heard from you - so
wants her - so